

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2728

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR OVIP (JAMES SCHLESSINGER) NATO XG DK

SUBJECT: SECDEF VISIT TO NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY:

CALLS ON RPIME MINISTER JORGENSEN AND DEFENSE

MINISTER MOLLER

REF A) STATE 221050 B) COPENHAGEN 2628

SUMMARY: THIS TELEGRAM FORWARDS BIOGRAPHIC INFO ON PRIME
MINISTER JORGENSEN AND TALKING POINTS FOR SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S MEET
ING

WITH HIM AND WITH DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER. END SUMMARY.

1. ANKER JORGENSEN (PRONOUNCED YOR IN SIN), A 52-YEAR OLD
FORMER TRADE UNION LEADER, BECAME PRIME MINISTER OF THE PRESENT
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MINOTIRY, GOVERNMENT IN FEBRUARY 1975; HIS
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FIRST TERM AS PRIME MINISTER, FROM OCTOBER 1972 TO DECEMBER 1973,

WAS MARKED BY SEVERAL "LOOSE COMMENTS" ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS, INCLUDING SEVERAL REFLECTING HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM WAS BASED ON A "MIS-JUDGMENT OF THE INDOCHINESE SITUATION". THE PRIME MINISTER MADE A SIMILAR CRITICAL STATEMENT ON APRIL 30 ON THE OCCASION OF THE FALL OF SAIGON. A PROTEST BY THE AMBASSADOR, HOWEVER, CLEARED THE AIR AND U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT ARE CURRENTLY VERY GOOD.

BASICALLY WELL DISPOSED TO THE UNITED STATES (HE ATTENDED A THREE MONTH TRADE UNION SEMINAR AT HARVARD IN 1959), JORGENSEN STRONGLY SUPPORTS NATO AS THE NECESSARY BASIS FOR DANISH SECURITY. HE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN SECURING NEAR-UNANIMOUS SUPPORT IN HIS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR THE RECENT DANISH PURCHASE OF 58 F-16'S. HIS GOVERNMENT JUST SUCCEEDED IN WINNING BROAD PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR A COMPROMISE THREE-YEAR ECONOMIC PROGRAM - A FACT THAT PROBABLY ENSURES ITS CONTINUANCE FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO.

AN EARNEST LOW-KEYED INDIVIDUAL JORGESEN RESPONDS BEST TO COOL DISPASSIONATE REASONING. HE SPEAKS PASSABLE ENGLISH IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN.

2. TALKING POINTS: IN YOUR TALKS WITH BOTH JORGESEN AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE ORLA MOLLER YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR DANISH PURCHASE OF THE F-16, CITING THE JOINT FOUR-COUNTRY PURCHASE AS A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO NATO STANDARDIZATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, URGE DANISH SUPPORT FOR FUTURE EFFORTS WITHIN NATO TOWARD RATIONALIZATION/STANDARDIZATION:

(B) REQUEST ADDITIONAL DANISH BILATERAL EFFORTS WITH THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE LATTER'S PLANS FOR MILITARY REDUCTIONS.

COMMENT: DEFENSE MINISTER MOLLER HAS DEVELOPED VERY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH HIS DUTCH COUNTERPART VREDELING AND THE DUTCH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.
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(C) DISCUSS NATO CAPACILITIES ON THE NORTHERN FLANK AND THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF DENMARK'S MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING ITS MILITARY CAPABILITY AND CONTRIBUTION TO NATO;

(D) IN THIS CONNECTION, INQUIRE ABOUT THE THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE MOLLER'S PLANS REGARDING PARLIAMENTARY EXTENSION OF THE PRESENT FOUR PARTY DEFENSE COMPROMISE PLAN. ALTHOUGH

THIS AGREEMENT DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL 1977, MOLLER IS KNOWN
TO BE CONSIDERING AN EARLY PRESENTATION OF A NEW PLAN COVERING
A LONGER PERIOD.

3) MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT MOLLER
WILL PROBABLY WISH TO DISCUSS WITH YOU:

(A THE F-16 PROGRAM, AND
(B) NATO AND THE PROBLEM AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
(GREECE, TURKEY AND POSSIBLY PORTUGAL).

4) THE PRIME MINISTER'S FOREIGN AFFIARS ADVISER HAS
PROMISED US BY NOON, SEPTEMBER 23, AN INDICATION OF THE
ITEMS THE PRIME MINISTERMAY WISH TO RAISE. WE WILL
FORWARD BY IMMEDIATE SEPTTEL, WITH COPY TO LONDON.
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